

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 8, 2008**

PRESENT: Dennis Farrell, Julie Turkoske, Doreen Eicher, Lorraine Lee, Glenn Lee, Jan Lee, Sandy Summerfield, Jane Kirchhoff, Julia Loritz, Amy Uker, Eugene Zacharyasz, Debra Patterson, Leigh Ann Kramer, Carol Ann Kay, Bruce Kaiser, Judy Larsen, Marian Ricker, Missy Kueht-Becker, Su Marshall, Janel Brandtjen, Marge Kastenholz, Cletus Fleming, Laurie Hintz, Sharon Johnson, Angie Brunhart, Diane Chilinski

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Vrakas, Peter Schuler, Don Maurer, Larry Barthen

Dennis Farrell called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members and all invited guests exchanged introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

Amy Uker made a motion, seconded by Julia Loritz to approve the minutes of September 10, 2008. The motion was voted on and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM MEMBERS OR GUESTS

Marian Ricker shared her memories of fourteen years serving on the County Board and as Chairperson of the Human Services Board. She has always been impressed over the years with the energy and dedication of all the Advisory Committees.

Lorraine Lee shared some memories. It has been many years that she started with the Full Citizenship Initiative (FCI) Steering Committee. In 1996, she won the award for FCI Self Advocate of the Year. This was such an honor and privilege for her to come to those meetings and to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities. She later served as Vice Chair of the DDAC and it's sad to see it come to an end. She hopes that it will continue with the People Can't Wait Coalition.

Judy Larsen echoed what was said by Lorraine Lee. Judy and her family gained a lot of valuable experience and connections with other parents over the years and facilitated a support group for parents with Down Syndrome children.

Marge Kastenholz is a long time member since 1978 when there was just 3 individuals on the board.

Clet Fleming was Principal of Fairview South School. He encouraged parents of students to become active and be aware of what would be coming in the future, helping children through the

process when they would become adults. He was grateful to be a part of this committee, keeping the energy alive for all children with disabilities.

Leigh Ann Kramer served as Chairperson when there were five individuals on the committee. She thanked Debra Patterson and Lorraine Lee for their participation with the Full Citizenship Initiative (FCI) and was proud to have served on the FCI and DDAC. She enjoyed these meetings and now teaches at Lakeshore Technology College in Cleveland.

Carol Ann Kay has been with ACAP and this committee for more many years. She thanked Marian Ricker for her continuous support with ACAP, Art Links, the Human Services Board, and the impact this group has had over the years with people with disabilities.

Missy Kueht Becker became a member of DDAC by default as there wasn't any family representative interested in attending on behalf of the Birth to Three program. She thanked Dennis Farrell for bringing the connection of Birth to Three to the County Board's attention as it does start early on.

Su Marshall recalls when we have not been in crisis with the Birth to Three Program, 2 days, and the value of this group getting to know each other as we collaborate and move forward.

Janel Brandtjen is a new member of the Health and Human Services County Board. Janel was instrumental in filming the video of the People Can't Wait presentation to the Health and Human Services Board.

Peter Schuler is the Director of the Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services. Peter recalled when he was a state official at the regional office, started going out to the departments, visiting at the public hearing and then was introduced to the advisory committees in Waukesha County. He enjoyed hearing from individuals who received services and one of his favorite movies, the American President, is all about values and character, working together and caring for the mission and purpose everyone here today brings into their hearts.

Angie Brunhart is with the Waukesha Training Center. Being a new member of this committee she always felt very welcomed, and given the ability to listen and learn to take back and share with the organization. The Waukesha Training Center did receive an award this year.

Julia Loritz has been proud to serve as the Vice Chair for the past two years. It has been a pleasure to be a part of this fine group of individuals, and has been a wonderful committee for exchange of information and viewpoints.

Don Maurer spoke on behalf of Jack Bodien and himself. This is a celebration of what has been accomplished over the years, memories that we know have helped individuals with disabilities, and now with Family Care, what this will do for the wait lists and in to the future.

Doreen Eicher has been attending this committee for the past ten years. Waukesha County is so fortunate to be able to come and work together and present to the County Board. ACAP is also appreciative that the Board members listen so individuals with disabilities can express their needs.

Glenn Lee, parent of Lorraine Lee has found this committee to be worthwhile. He has learned those skills to advocate for his daughter over the years, and hopes that the People Can't Wait Coalition will carry on.

Dennis Farrell said it's been forty years in the making. He thanked all the Chairs who made it happen. He did note that Jerry is in a nursing home and was unable to attend. Through the years this committee communicated well and took the County Board members out to the Training Center for lunch. Who knows maybe the People Can't Wait will change its name to the Full Citizenship Initiative. Thank you all for your support and memories.

Dan Vrakas thanked Dennis Farrell. He said that Dennis is a leader and a man of action. Dennis serves the Menomonee Falls Community. He is Chairman of the Neighborhood Watch Program, Chairman of the Health and Human Services Board, and always challenges himself to put out high quality services. Thank you Dennis for your continuing support with the DDAC.

Dan also talked about the great history this Advisory Committee has had for many years. He said that advocacy never really ends; it's just the beginning. He recalls the Beacon Lights group advocating to build a hospital and still meets. Waukesha County is ranked the eighth best county to raise a family and advocates on behalf of the people who need these services and your voice will continue to be important. Dan was honored to speak on this motion of dissolving the DDAC, recognizing the work that has been accomplished and the many more years to come into the future.

PEOPLE CAN'T WAIT PRESENTATION

The People Can't Wait Coalition was started to help build the disability movement following deinstitutionalization so individuals would have some control over their own destiny. It began with twelve to fifteen organizations, and six agencies presently represent the coalition to date. With the dissolving of the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee, the People Can't Wait Coalition hopes that members of the DDAC will join forces with the PCW and continue advocacy efforts. Over the years, PCW has accomplished the following activities:

- 2002 – The first advocacy pieces were established – educating individuals on how the County works, and offered morning or evening advocacy training
- 2005 – 2006 – State rally and meetings with legislators, Legislators breakfast at the Ranch, County Executive Forum with Dan Vrakas and Jim Dwyer. Started speaker's bureau speaking to different service clubs regarding developmental disabilities.
- 2006 -- Produced the "People Can't Wait" video.
- 2007 – 2008 – Interest with learning about Family Care. Parent advocacy training began in 2007 and continues through 2008. Next focus is on Family Care. PCW brochure, bookmark, and email address in place.

The People Can't Wait Coalition focuses on what is going on in our community, education, and action oriented as far as agendas and reports. Their mission is to advocate to all elected officials about services and waiting lists for individuals with disabilities. They also promote disability awareness through various media efforts.

On Wednesday, November 5, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., a panel presentation for those individuals who have already transitioned to Family Care will take place at Goodwill Industries in Waukesha.

Further questions regarding the People Can't Wait Coalition can be directed to Doreen Eicher or Nichole Hunkins.

I. Vote to Dissolve DDAC

Julie Turkoske, Chair of the Developmental Disabilities Committee expressed her gratitude for being a part of this group over the last couple of years. She has thoroughly enjoyed and learned a lot from all, thanked all present for coming today to share in this event, and gave Dennis Farrell special thanks for his dedication and commitment to the DDAC.

MOTION: Lorraine Lee made a motion, seconded by Judy Larsen to dissolve the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee. The motion was voted on and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Linda Johnson